

*Eumichtis* (= *Blepharita*) *satura* in "A Moth Hunter's Gossip" (1947), and suggests most amusingly that William Reid from Pitcaple, Aberdeenshire cleverly beat up a lucrative trade in the moth by discussing its larval habits. All very possible, but firstly Reid was not a dealer, as Allan suggests, and secondly all his writings, and especially his learned and comprehensive "List of the Lepidoptera of Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire" (1893) are redolent of integrity. He was a microlepidopterist of real skill, and we are still rediscovering many of the species which he listed and which to us seemed rare and perhaps unlikely. If you read his works I am sure you will conclude, with me, that far from being a canny dealer he was actually a learned and reliable field lepidopterist. I would like him to be revered, not villified! — M. R. YOUNG, Department of Zoology, Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen.

DANAUS PLEXIPPUS L. IN THE ALGARVE, PORTUGAL, 1981. — The reports of this butterfly in South-West England in the first four pages of the November/December 1981 "Record" make my own experience worth recording in a journal primarily concerned with British entomology.

We holidayed at the Montechoro Hotel just outside Albufeira in the Algarve from 2nd to 16th October. For the first few days the weather was mixed and worsening with a wind from the South-West which is unusual in this part of Portugal. There were few butterflies about but I was struck by the plentiful supply of Lantana bushes in the hotel and neighbouring gardens and these reminded me of Teneriffe where they are so well patronised by the Monarchs.

When the wind changed back to the North we were blessed with settled weather and very warm sunshine and almost immediately *D. plexippus* appeared gliding round the swimming pool on the 9th, it was seen on most days during the ensuing week, usually on or near the Lantana. Knowing nothing of the events in England and hoping that specimens from the Canaries might be settling in the Algarve I made no attempt to catch it though nothing could have been easier as it rested on the flowers and was obviously in very good condition.

I am not aware whether it is possible to distinguish a specimen from the Canary Islands from one from America, but in view of the shorter distance and favourable wind this seems the more likely source for the Algarve specimen and does not seem so unlikely for the Cornish specimens. It would be interesting to know how many more Monarchs were seen along the Western sea-board of Europe at this time. — C. I. RUTHERFORD, Longridge, Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7BL.

INTERESTING MOTHS AT MV LIGHT AT OR NEAR WYE, KENT IN 1981. — This year, I ran Robinson traps continuously at Wye College from May to August, and in my garden on the downs above Boughton Aluph intermittently throughout the year. May and most of June produced very low numbers of both species and individuals, but the situation improved in July and August. The more interesting species trapped were:—

*Rhyacia simulans* Hufn., at Wye on 29 July, now recorded for

the fourth year running in Kent, after its first capture in the county in 1978. The date is interesting, since the adults are supposed to aestivate from mid July to mid August. *Diarsia dahlii* Hbn. Boughton Aluph, 25 August; the first record for the area for 12 years. *Arenostola phragmitidis* Hbn., one at each site on 7 August; the appearance of two fresh specimens on the same night some distance from any possible breeding ground suggests a possible dispersal flight that night. *Hadena confusa* Hufn., Boughton Aluph, 2 July, the first record here in five years. *Evergestis extimalis* Scop., Boughton Aluph, 25 August. — M. ENFIELD, New Cottage, Warren Farm, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.

ANOTHER FOODPLANT OF THE YELLOW SHELL: CAMPTOGRAMMA BILINEATA L. — Publication of the recent note on the larval foodplants of *C. bilineata* (West, *Ent. Rec. J. Var.*, 93, 198, 1981) happened to coincide with a re-examination of the note-books kept by myself and my brother (S. A. Knill-Jones) between 1955 and 1962. The entry for 17.4.1957 includes a note to the effect that night-searching for larvae at Freshwater, Isle of Wight (OS.SZ. 3387) revealed one stout green larva with a dark dorsal line, whitish lateral line and brown head, on *Ranunculus ficaria* L. (Ranunculaceae). The resulting imago emerged on 22.6.1957. There is no note that feeding was actually observed, but this would not be expected as the note-books rarely contained such observations unless the originally recorded foodplant was found to be unacceptable. The brief larval description is consistent with that given in Stokoe and Stovin, *Caterpillars of British Moths*, (F. Warne, London, 1948) and the note makes it highly likely that *R. ficaria* is a foodplant for the post-hibernation larvae of *C. bilineata* in the wild. — R. P. KNILL-JONES, 9 Crown Road South, Glasgow, Scotland

FURTHER RECORDS OF MONOCHROA HORNIGI (STAUD.) — I recently had cause to re-examine and dissect some *Monochroa* spp. This led to the discovery that I had taken *M. hornigi* at Enfield, Middx., 14.vii.1979 and at Southampton, 17 & 19.vi.1970.

The latter specimens had previously been misidentified as *M. elongella* (Hein.) and are so-recorded in Goater's list of Hampshire lepidoptera. I did find, however, that I have a specimen of *elongella* from Braunton Burrows, North Devon, 26.viii.1970, which was correctly identified. This is a scarce and local species whose larva feeds on *Potentilla anserina*. — D. J. L. AGASSIZ, The Vicarage, 10, High View Avenue, Grays, Essex RM17 6RU.

THE RISE OF THE CYPRUS PUG: EUPITHECIA PHOENICEATA RAMBUR IN THE EASTBOURNE AREA. — This moth has been spreading along the south coast and was first noted in Eastbourne on 27 August 1978 at light in my old garden. In 1979, two were noted: one by Mr. M. Hadley and one by Mr. S. W. P. Poole. In 1980, a further eight specimens were captured, including one netted near the cliffs at Holywell by Mr. C. Pratt. In 1981, fewer traps were run in the area; however, the moth was noted in increased numbers with a total of 15, including one interesting record of it from Deep Deane which is some way from a larval foodplant. — M. PARSONS, The Forge, Russells Green, Ninefield, Battle, E. Sussex.